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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 2, 2004

**FEDERAL INDICTMENT OF WEST SACRAMENTO
GANG MEMBERS ON DRUG CHARGES**

**ARRESTS MADE AT APARTMENT COMPLEX WHERE DRUGS
SOLD WITHIN 1000 FEET OF EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, FBI Special Agent in Charge Keith Slotter, West Sacramento Police Chief Jon Schorle, and California Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement Chief John Gaines announced today that on May 27, 2004 a federal grand jury returned a sealed, two-count indictment charging TERRELL WHITFIELD, age 35, of Sacramento, LAMAR JUSTIN JACKSON, age 23, of Sacramento, VANTHOEUN KHAO, age 18, from West Sacramento, BO SENG, age 24, of West Sacramento, RATANA OUK, age 18, of West Sacramento, CARLOS LEE SANCHEZ, JR., age 23, of West Sacramento, SAU WEUY SAEPHAN, age 23, of West Sacramento, SOKHEAR TOUCH, age 19, of West Sacramento, CHHOM MAO, age 26 of West Sacramento, KEVIN DOUGLAS CHAO, age 24, of West Sacramento, and CHETH YIM, age 32, of West Sacramento, with conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine, and conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine within 1000 feet of a school. Of the 11 persons indicted, nine are in custody. TAU BAU HENG and STEVEN SOPHAL were arrested based upon a federal complaint. Also arrested were LAO SAETERN, age 21, of West Sacramento, and CLEVIE BUCKLEY, age 31, of Fresno. BUCKLEY was apprehended and arrested after a car chase. OUK and SANCHEZ are fugitives.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the Yolo County Narcotic Enforcement Team (YONET), the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the West Sacramento Police Department. YONET is comprised of the Police Departments for the cities of West Sacramento, Davis and Woodland, the Yolo County Sheriff's Department, the Yolo County District Attorney's Office and the State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement. SWAT teams from the YONET agencies, and the Yolo County Probation Department assisted in the arrests made this morning in Sacramento, Elk Grove and West Sacramento and search warrants executed at 10 locations in West Sacramento, Sacramento, and Elk Grove. All total there were approximately 80 agents and officers involved.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Mary L. Grad, who is prosecuting the

case, the indictment alleges that from February 2004 through May 27, 2004, the defendants distributed at least 50 grams of cocaine base at 1720 Merkley Avenue, an apartment complex in West Sacramento, located within 1000 feet of the Evergreen Elementary School

United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, said: "West Sacramento is making great strides toward redevelopment of its downtown area. In the heart of that area, gang members had taken over an apartment complex where they distributed drugs to walk up customers at all hours of the day and night. Children attend an elementary school less than 500 feet from this crack distribution complex. The FBI was asked by local agencies to lend a hand here and we are gratified with the results."

Special Agent-In-Charge Keith Slotter stated: "Through the Safe Streets Task Force, the Yolo County Narcotics Enforcement team, the West Sacramento Police Department, and the FBI, are working together to keep the streets of Northern California's cities and towns free from violent gang activities, particularly in the Eastern District where the crack drug trade still plagues our cities. The Safe Streets concept continues to expand and combines the experience of all levels of law enforcement to aggressively attack this serious and pervasive problem."

West Sacramento Chief of Police Jon Schorle, stated: "We greatly appreciate the cooperation of all the agencies involved in this undertaking. Our goal is to identify and alleviate the trouble-spots in our community as best we can."

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each offense of conspiracy to distribute cocaine base is a maximum of life imprisonment, a \$4,000, 000 fine and a maximum of life of supervised release.

The charges are only allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

A copy of this press release is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home>, select Press Releases.

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